

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
CHRISTI WATER SYSTEM, INC. FOR AN
INCREASE IN RATES AND CHARGES.

CASE NO. 24-798-WW-AIR

ENTRY

Entered in the Journal on March 27, 2025

{¶ 1} Christi Water System, Inc. (Christi or Applicant) is a waterworks company as defined by R.C. 4905.03(G) and a public utility as defined by R.C. 4905.02, and, as such, is subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission pursuant to R.C. 4905.04, 4905.05, and 4905.06.

{¶ 2} An application for an increase in rates is governed by, and must meet, the requirements of R.C. 4909.17, 4909.18, 4909.19, and 4909.42.

{¶ 3} On August 8, 2024, and amended on August 29, 2024, Applicant filed an abbreviated application to increase its rates for water service, pursuant to R.C. 4909.18.

{¶ 4} On September 3, 2024, the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) filed a motion to intervene in this case. No memoranda contra were filed. By Entry issued on October 15, 2024, the Commission granted OCC's motion to intervene in this case.

{¶ 5} On September 5, 2024, Staff filed a review and recommendation in which Staff concluded that Applicant's abbreviated application substantively conforms to the Standard Filing Requirements for Rate Increases (SFR) as described in Ohio Adm.Code 4901-7-01.

{¶ 6} On October 15, 2024, the Commission determined (1) that the application was accepted as of the amended filing date of August 29, 2024, (2) that the application conforms to the SFR, (3) that the test period for the application is January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023, (4) that the date certain for the application is December 31, 2023, and (5)

that Applicant's requested waiver of R.C. 4909.18(A) through (E) is reasonable and should be granted.

{¶ 7} Pursuant to R.C. 4909.19, Staff conducted an investigation of the facts, exhibits, and matters relating to Christi's application and filed its Staff Report on March 21, 2025.

{¶ 8} Pursuant to R.C. 4909.19 and Ohio Adm.Code 4901-1-28(B), all objections to the Staff Report must be filed within 30 days after the filing of such report. Therefore, all objections must be filed by April 21, 2025. All objections must be specific. Any objection that is not specific enough to convey what is actually being placed at issue will be struck pursuant to the above-cited rule.

{¶ 9} Motions to intervene in this case should be filed by April 21, 2025, in accordance with Ohio Adm.Code 4901-1-11.

{¶ 10} Motions to strike objections to the Staff Report should be filed by April 28, 2025; memoranda contra motions to intervene, as well as memoranda contra motions to strike objections to the Staff Report, should be filed by May 5, 2025. Unless an objection is struck or withdrawn, each objection must be discussed in the initial post-hearing brief of the objecting party. If an objection is not discussed in the initial brief, the objection will, without further action, be deemed withdrawn.

{¶ 11} Direct expert testimony in this case should be filed by May 14, 2025.

{¶ 12} R.C. 4903.083 requires that the Commission hold at least one public hearing session within Christi's service territory and that at least one session of the local public hearing be scheduled after 5:00 p.m. Accordingly, the local public hearing has been scheduled at the following time and location:

- (a) April 28, 2025, at 6:00 p.m., at the Defiance City Hall, City Council Room, 631 Perry Street, Defiance, Ohio 43512.

{¶ 13} Christi should publish legal notice of the local hearing in a newspaper of general circulation in all of the affected service territory once a week for two consecutive weeks prior to the scheduled date of the local hearing. The hearing notice should not appear in the legal notices section of the newspaper. The notice should read as follows:

LEGAL NOTICE

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (Commission) has scheduled a local public hearing in Case No. 24-798-WW-AIR, *In the Matter of the Application of Christi Water System, Inc. for an Increase in Rates and Charges*. This local hearing is scheduled for the purpose of providing an opportunity to interested members of the public to testify in this proceeding. The local hearing will be held at the following time and location: April 28, 2025, at 6:00 p.m., at the Defiance City Hall, City Council Room, 631 Perry Street, Defiance, Ohio 43512.

By its application, Christi Water System, Inc. (Christi) seeks a rate and charge increase under a new, consolidated rate structure. According to a Commission staff report, under the rates and terms proposed by Christi, a customer using 400 cubic feet (c.f.) of water would see a bill increase of approximately 18.5 percent. The current rates include base rates established in Case No. 20-1428-WW-AIR and purchase water rate last updated in Case No. 24-232-WW-PWA, respectively. Pursuant to the application, Christi proposes to increase rates and to consolidate its purchased water rate with its base rates.

Further information may be obtained by contacting the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, 180 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793, the Commission's hotline at 1-800-686-7826, or the Commission website at <http://www.puco.ohio.gov>.

Any interested party seeking detailed information with respect to all affected rates, charges, regulations, and practices may inspect a copy of the application, including supporting schedules and present and proposed rate sheets, by any of the following methods: by visiting the Commission's web site at puco.ohio.gov, selecting "What is DIS?", then selecting "Visit DIS", selecting "Launch Docketing Information System (DIS)", then inputting 24-798 in the case lookup box and selecting the date the application was filed; or by contacting the Commission's call center at 1-800-686-PUCO (7826) or the Commission's Docketing Division at docketing@puco.ohio.gov.

{¶ 14} A prehearing conference will be held on April 30, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. The prehearing conference will take place at the Commission offices, Hearing Room 11-D, 11th Floor, 180 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215. The parties should register at the lobby desk and then proceed to the 11th Floor in order to participate in the prehearing conference.

{¶ 15} The evidentiary hearing will begin on May 21, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. The evidentiary hearing will take place at the Commission offices, Hearing Room 11-D, 11th Floor, 180 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215. The parties should register at the lobby desk and then proceed to the 11th Floor in order to participate in the hearing.

{¶ 16} It is, therefore,

{¶ 17} ORDERED, That all objections to the Staff Report be filed by April 21, 2025. It is, further,

{¶ 18} ORDERED, That motions to intervene be filed by April 21, 2025. It is, further,

{¶ 19} ORDERED, That motions to strike objections to the Staff Report be filed by April 28, 2025, and memoranda contra motions to intervene, as well as memoranda contra motions to strike objections to the Staff Report, be filed by May 5, 2025. It is, further,

{¶ 20} ORDERED, That all direct expert testimony be filed by May 14, 2025. It is, further,

{¶ 21} ORDERED, That a local public hearing be scheduled in accordance with Paragraph 12. It is, further,

{¶ 22} ORDERED, That notice of the local public hearing be published by Christi as directed in Paragraph 13. It is, further,

{¶ 23} ORDERED, That Christi file proof of publication of the notices of the local public hearing. It is, further,

{¶ 24} ORDERED, That a prehearing conference be scheduled on April 30, 2025, in accordance with Paragraph 14. It is, further,

{¶ 25} ORDERED, That the evidentiary hearing will begin on May 21, 2025, in accordance with Paragraph 15. It is, further,

{¶ 26} ORDERED, That a copy of this Entry be served upon all parties of record.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

s/Ian S. Kieffer

By: Ian Kieffer
Administrative Law Judge

GNS/js

**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities
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in

Case No(s). 24-0798-WW-AIR

Summary: Administrative Law Judge Entry ordering all objections to the Staff Report be filed by April 21, 2025; motions to intervene be filed by April 21, 2025; motions to strike objections to the Staff Report be filed by April 28, 2025, and memoranda contra motions to intervene, as well as memoranda contra motions to strike objections to the Staff Report, be filed by May 5, 2025; all direct expert testimony be filed by May 14, 2025; a local public hearing be scheduled for April 28, 2025, at 6:00 p.m., at the Defiance City Hall, City Council Room, 631 Perry Street, Defiance, Ohio 43512; notice of the local public hearing be published by Christi in a newspaper of general circulation in all of the affected service territory once a week for two consecutive weeks prior to the scheduled date of the local hearing; Christi file proof of publication of the notices of the local public hearing; a prehearing conference be scheduled on April 30, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.; and the evidentiary hearing will begin on May 21, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. electronically filed by Jennie Schneider on behalf of Ian S. Kieffer, Administrative Law Judge, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio.